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Editorial

A COMMUNITY EXPERIMENT IN LATIN

Miss Hazel Hull, teacher of Latin in the high school at Massena, Iowa, has inaugurated and carried out a plan this year that would seem to promise much for Latin interest in small towns if it could be generally adopted. This is the adaptation of the community-club idea to the Latin work. Her effort has been to enlist the interest and support, not only of the pupils, but of the parents and of the community in general.

Massena is a town of only five hundred inhabitants, and but two years of Latin are taught in the high school. Under these unpromising conditions Miss Hull organized a Latin club to which those were eligible who had had one year of Latin, *whether pupils, teachers, or townspeople*. The meetings were held in the high-school auditorium and very early attracted attention and interest on the part of school and community. The programs at first were similar to those usually given in the high-school clubs, consisting of Latin songs, dialogues, poems, plays, etc., one feature regularly being a talk by Miss Hull on the value of even the two years of Latin, and on the meanings of Roman life and customs in relation to our own. In this connection the series of lantern slides on Roman life sent out by the Latin department of the state university were regularly and profitably used. Occasionally special programs were prepared and the meetings thrown open to the public.

The report of one of these meetings mentions the interest and enthusiasm of the club members and initiates, and adds, "*But the most important part was the interest of the parents, who expressed*

deep appreciation of the interest that the young people were taking in their Latin work. The alumni, too, were deeply interested and expressed their delight in getting into touch again with school life through this channel."

Miss Hull writes: "Although the club has been organized less than a year we can already see good results in the community. The people are beginning to see that there is some use and some life in Latin. One of the most enthusiastic of the visitors was a man who said he had not been inside the school for twenty years, but that he meant now to attend these meetings. The pupils have begun carrying the ideas gained in the Latin club into their other work. This was especially noticeable after we began using the slides. This was especially true in the case of history and the English classics. The Freshmen say they wish they could take Latin next year so that they might be in the club (we begin Latin in the Junior year). A number of graduates have been stimulated, to my knowledge, to consider further work in college."

This modest work of Miss Hull is notable as an example, not only of what may be done for Latin in the small school where interest in it usually languishes, but more particularly of what may be done for it in a small community. Perhaps the most frequent objection to Latin comes from the parents who are not able to see its value, and the winning of even a small number of these to the side of Latin is a strategic move. The novelty of the work consists in the adaptation of the Latin work to the community-club idea. It is probably chiefly feasible in a small town where the interest in the work and the evening program can be advertised by town talk. It could probably be accomplished likewise with other subjects as well as with Latin; but Miss Hull deserves much credit for capturing the field in her town for her own subject. There are large possibilities in this community idea, and Latin can be greatly helped in small communities by its adoption.

THE ROLL OF HONOR

With this month is concluded the twelfth year of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, and of its official organ, the *Classical Journal*. During these twelve years the *Journal* has